

Taxes and Services (Key)

For the next 48 hours, you will record the following information:

- Dollar amounts of taxes paid by you or a family member. For example, sales tax on products and food or excise taxes on gasoline or tobacco products. Do not include income or Social Security taxes. If necessary, use the back of the handout for additional space.
- Note: If you filled your car with 15 gallons of gasoline, figure out the excise tax. Multiply it by the number of gallons of gasoline, and that will give you the dollar amount of taxes paid.
- All services you and your family use that were provided through taxes such as streets, traffic signals, water and your education.
- Record the information and total the cost of taxes recorded. You will be sharing your findings with the class.
- Refer to <http://www.window.state.tx.us/> for additional assistance on tax information.

Possible answers:

Consumer product	Dollar amount of tax paid	Type of tax: federal, state or local
Shopping for clothes	Will vary	State and local
Going out to eat	Will vary	State and local
Bought a new car battery	\$2.00	State
For a conventional package of 20 cigarettes	\$1.41 per pack	State
Gasoline per gallon	.38 per gallon	State and federal
Cell phone bill	Will vary	State and federal
Marriage, fishing or hunting license	Will vary	State
Dollar store	Will vary	State and local
Health spa memberships	Will vary	State and local
Florist	Will vary	State and local
Waste collection services	Will vary	Local
Cable TV	Will vary	Federal, state and local
Internet services	Will vary	Federal, state and local
Fabric store	Will vary	State and local
Total		

Services used by you or your family that were provided through taxes. Underline the services used.

Answers will vary - possible answers:

1. Streets to travel to work, school, church and shopping
2. Attended court to pay a speeding ticket
3. Traveled on the interstate highway to visit my Grandmother in New Mexico
4. My sister is attending a local community college
5. My aunt was in the hospital having a baby
6. A drunk driver was arrested by the police for hitting our car
7. Went to the park for a family picnic
8. The street lights outside our business protect it at night
9. I am attending high school and getting an education
10. Stopped at a red light in San Antonio and saw Tony Parker crossing the street
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

How is the consumer affected by tax laws and the U.S. economy?

Revenue from taxes collect from all individuals benefit individuals and families by providing services at the government, state and local levels. Without this revenue, society would not be able to function at a civilized manner.

Revenue from taxes benefit individuals and families by:

By providing services such as: highways, educations, Agriculture and Medical Research, court systems, federal government, federal prisons, National defense program, National parks, public health, public assistance, libraries, sideways, roads, police and fire protection.

How do government regulations protect the rights of consumers?

By enforcing laws under regulations acts such as the Consumer Credit Protection Act. Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and The Truth In Lending Act.